



Walter

THOMSON [1808-1882]

&

Jean

THOMSON [1819-1885]

(née CRAWFORD)

Married in Bothwell, Lanarkshire, Scotland

Departed 12 September 1838 from Scotland

Arrived 26 December 1838 at Holdfast Bay
on the

Prince George

Children of Walter & Jean:

Ann (1839-1909) m Andrew MATSON

Janet (1840-1926)

Jane (1842-1881) m Adam RICHARDSON

Mary (1843-1894) m Thomas FREEBAIRN

William (1844-1915)

Walter (1846-1940) m Margaret MORRIS

John (1847-1926) m Margaret HAY

George (1848-1895)

Helen (1850-1858)

Alexander (1851-1905) m Jane NIELSEN

Robert (1852-1907) m Mary LAIDLAW

David (1854-1946) m Elizabeth GALLOWAY

James (1856-1930) m Elizabeth HAY

Andrew (1857-1859)

Andrew (1859-1944) m Eleanor MILLER

Isabella (1862-1936) m Robert SMITH

A Successful Contractor with Vice-Regal Appeal

After arrival from Scotland in 1838, Walter ('Watty') and Jean Thomson settled first at Black Forest, where within a decade, Walter had earned enough to buy his own land. According to a grand-daughter, "he had a lot of land on South Road at one time, but he was a speculator and tho' made much, lost most."

Walter was a contractor for the Overland Telegraph and family rumour has it that he contributed to the deforestation of Black Forest, making use of the local timber to supply the line! It was a profitable venture – the Telegraph Reports of 1856-7 state "Probable cost: Mr Walter Thomson's contract, 300 miles @ £40 per mile = £12,000." In 1858 it was reported, "Mr Walter Thomson, the contractor, has used every diligence and, considering the many great obstacles in his way, the work is as far advanced as could be expected."

He also supplied broken stones for the construction of South Road over Tapley's Hill that conveniently passed near his new home at O'Halloran Hill, whimsically named 'Faery Knowe'. By now, Walter was an experienced farmer with an interest in the latest farming machinery and he was a chief witness at a government enquiry into cereal diseases in 1868. He was, however, "known to be more resolute in [his] determination to resist payment of rates than any other individual in the district."

'Watty' was a well-known raconteur and the Thomson home was a popular meeting place. Governor Sir James Fergusson even invited him to join a vice-regal tour after visiting 'Faery Knowe'.

Walter and Jean's large family provided them with happiness and prosperity. The couple were buried in the old Happy Valley cemetery that, within fifteen years, was submerged by the new Reservoir. It's ironic that Walter's resistance to sharing the local water supply in the 1860s should be reflected in his 'removal' after death to make way for growing city's water supply.

From information provided by Lois Watson,
Walter & Jean's great great great granddaughter
March 2015





Richard NOURSE [1818-1902]

Married

Mary Ann BICKFORD [1824-1902]

Departed 11 October 1838 from Gravesend

Arrived 21 March 1839 at Port Adelaide on the

Katherine Stewart Forbes

Children of Richard & Mary Ann:

Emma (1842-1913) m Leonard l'ANSON

John (1844-1909) m [1] Sarah HAYMAN

[2] Christina ROSS

Richard (1846-1910) m Selina MINERS

Hannah (1847-1897) m George RAWLINS

Mary Ann (1848-1888) m William BRINKWORTH

William (1850-1936) m Letitia (Lettie) STOCKS

Fanny (1852-1942) m Daniel COCKSHELL

Ellen (1854-1903) m Henry HANCOCK

Elizabeth (1855-1939) m Alfred RAWLINS

Sarah (1857-1859)

George (1859-1927) m Hannah HOWE

Sarah (1861-1947) m James BELL

Leonard (1863-1926) m Emily BLEECHMORE

Matilda (1865-1945) m George BLENCOWE

Amy (1868-1938) m Josiah BLENCOWE

The Carpenter With A Wooden Leg

Richard Nourse travelled to South Australia on a free passage with his wife, Anne, aboard the *Katherine Stewart Forbes* in 1839. After their arrival they settled at Goodwood, and Richard found employment as a carpenter. Anne died childless two years later.

A year after her death, Richard remarried to Mary Ann Bickford, a servant living in Hindley Street who had been in the colony for two and a half years. She had sailed alone on a free passage aboard the *Caroline*, and although she gave her age as eighteen, she was fifteen, lying about her age to gain a berth.

Richard and Mary Ann lived at Goodwood, but moved to the Little Para area and, in November 1847, were living in Gawler. Richard continued to work as a carpenter until early in 1855, when he took on the job of the publican at the 'One Tree Hill Inn'. He returned to live in Gawler after two years as a licensed victualler, and took up carpentry again, but a year later he declared himself insolvent and his property at Gawler was offered for sale by auction by the mortgagee.

Richard moved to Finnis Point and by 1866, owned a farm in the Hundred of Gilbert and a block in the town of Hamilton. His sons worked the farm, while he worked as a carpenter and builder. In 1868 when Richard was roofing a house near Steelton, the scaffolding gave way and he fell about eight or nine feet. He fractured his ankle, and his leg was amputated below the knee. When he recovered Richard made his own wooden leg, which was strapped on over his trouser leg.

In 1875 Richard, Mary Ann and some of their fifteen children moved to 'Perseverance Farm' just east of Petersburg (Peterborough) where he lived for the rest of his life. He died there in 1902, aged 84.

Mary Ann, who had a 'kindly disposition' and was a devout Christian, died soon after and they were both buried Petersburg Ceme



From information provided by Stephen Batten,
March 2015





**Robert
DENFORD** [1813-1881]

&

**Ann
DENFORD** [1815-1897]
(née DEVONSHIRE)

Married on 27 October 1838

Departed 5 November 1838 from London

Arrived 21 March 1839 at Port Adelaide on the

D'Auvergne

Children of Robert & Ann:

Elizabeth (1840-1925) m James DAVISON

Robert (1841-1890) m Mary TAYLOR

Ellen (1843-1901) m Thomas HUNTER

Leonora (1845-1937) m Samuel NICHOLLS

Mary (1847-1927) m Joshua JONES

Charles (1849-1926) m Julia MANACKS

Francis (1851-1920) m Christiana PENBERTHY

George (1854-1894) m Alice PRATT

Alice (1858-1936) m John McCONNELL BLACK

A Family of Carpenters and Hoteliers

Robert Denford and his wife Ann came to South Australia with his father John, sister Angelina and her husband Charles Harvie Earle. After arriving in South Australia in 1839, John took up the licence for the 'Bonnie Owl Inn' at Welwyn (near the Reedbeds) and Robert went into partnership with his brother-in-law Charles as a builder and carpenter and constructed many city buildings.

In late 1845 John Denford made his way to Guichen Bay, a new port in the south east of the state and built a new public house, the 'Bonnie Owl Hotel'. Robert and his family arrived at Robe Town in March 1847 after he won the tender for erection of its Police Station House.

In 1849 Robert took over the licence of John's hotel and changed its name to the 'Robe Town Hotel'. He continued to provide carpentry services while John ran the hotel. In 1853 he sold it and, in 1855, moved to Wellington East on the River Murray and took over the licence for the 'Bushman's Camp Hotel'. Robert then built his own 'Wellington East Hotel' and was the licensee until it closed in 1870. Various family members ran this hotel as Robert was also farming his land 'Tong-o-Tong' at Wellington East until his retirement.

John Denford continued to live in Robe Town after the sale of the 'Robe Town Hotel' then moved back to Adelaide and worked as a barman. In 1858 he took over the licence of the 'Reedbeds Hotel' for a short time.

John lived with Angelina and Charles until 1862 when he purchased a riverside block near Wellington East, and lived close to Robert until his death in 1869. In 1880 Robert and Ann retired and moved to Norwood where Robert died in 1881, and Ann died in 1897.

From information provided by
Marjorie Andrew, Robert & Ann's great grand-daughter
and Di Barrie, Robert & Ann's great great grand-daughter
March 2015





John Cavenett & Eliza Sluman's three surviving children: Henry, Eliza & John

John CAVENETT [c1808-1844]

Married

[1] Eliza SLUMAN on 7 April 1828

&

[2] Eliza WARE on 17 November 1841 at Holy Trinity Church, Adelaide

Departed 15 August 1840 from London

Arrived 13 December 1840 at Port Adelaide on the

Brightman

Children of John & Eliza (née SLUMAN):

Henry (1829-1876) m [1] Caroline WOODMAN

[2] Mary BROWN

Stephen (1831-1831)

Mary Anne (1832-1840)

Eliza (1834 -1884) m William SHADWELL

Frances (1837-1837)

John (1838-1916) m Julia DWYER

Children of John & Eliza (née WARE):

Mary Ann (1842-1849)

Elizabeth (1845-1926) m Richard WATERS

A Unique Family

Name Survives

In the 1840's the English farming industry had suffered a quarter of a century of misfortunes and favourable reports of the new colony possibly enticed John and Eliza Cavenett to apply for free passage to South Australia. The voyage was a difficult one for the family with the death of both Eliza and her elder daughter Mary Anne at sea.

John and his three surviving children lived at Oxenbury Farm, Willunga, and in 1841 he married Eliza Waer in Holy Trinity Anglican Church. They had two children, but in 1844 John, aged 35 years, died of apoplexy (stroke).

His widow Eliza was left in difficult financial circumstances, occasioning a petition for assistance to Governor Sir George Grey. She was caring for four children, and was pregnant and soon to deliver.

In 1853, Eliza Cavenett re-married widower, Thomas Goodman. They had three children in South Australia, one of whom died in infancy. Thomas travelled to the Victorian goldfields and in 1855 Eliza again sought assistance, saying she had not heard from him in eight months. She eventually followed Thomas to Campbell's Creek, where they had another two children.

They remained in Victoria, as did all of the children.

John Cavenett's posthumous daughter Elizabeth lived in Bendigo for most of her life but moved to Scottsdale, Tasmania in 1920 where she died in 1926.



Elizabeth Cavenett

Research has shown the name Cavenett is extremely rare and it appears that everyone in the world who bears the name as a birthright is a descendant of John Cavenett [1808-1844]. Had he not had sons, the name would not now exist.

From information provided by
Kingsley Ireland, John's great great grandson,
& Gail Edwards, John's great great grand-daughter
March 2015





SLSA B10570

William SHEPHARD [c1812-1848]

Married Ann GARRETT [c1810-1867]
on 4 June 1838 at Trinity Church

Departed 20 July 1836 from London

Arrived 26 November 1836 at Port Adelaide
on the

Tam O'Shanter

Children of William & Ann:

Ann (1839-1927) m Thomas RICHARDS

William (1842-1912) m Elizabeth HOPKINS

John (1844-1849)

Frederick (1846-1846)

William (1847-1894) m Alice WRIGHT

He Gave His Name to a Major Road

London butcher, William Shephard travelled to South Australia in 1836 on the privately chartered ship *Tam O'Shanter*. After stopping at Kingscote and Holdfast Bay, the ship arrived at Port Adelaide, or 'Port Misery', where it was stuck on mud flats for several days before passengers could get ashore.

During 1837, William bought block 251 on Franklin Street near West Terrace, where he built the Adelaide Tavern. By April 1838 a theatre had been completed upstairs.

"ADELAIDE TAVERN

William Shephard begs to inform the inhabitants of Adelaide that the above Tavern has now accommodation for public parties...

ADELAIDE TAVERN THEATRE...

The ladies and gentlemen and public generally of Adelaide and its vicinity are respectfully informed that a theatre is now fitting up above the Tavern after a unique plan of Parisian Minos Theatre embracing merely a pit and 9 separate Dress Boxes...where refreshments of every description will be provided. ... At least once or twice a week the orchestra is sure to be efficient as the leader's name will guarantee."

South Australian Gazette and Colonial Register

Two days after William and Ann's marriage, a reception for over 250 guests was held for Colonel Light on his retirement as Surveyor-General.

"The colonists of South Australia are informed. The dinner to Colonel Light and the officers of his department will be given on Wednesday 6th June 1838 at Shepherd's Hotel

John Morphett Esq in the chair

Stewards:- George Anstey, C Berkerley, John Brown, TY Cotter, James Fisher, T Gilbert, B Hack, F Hancock, H Jones, C Mann, WH Neal, EH Pollard, E Stephens, S Smart and E Wright. Dinner will be on the table at 2 o'clock precisely and tickets 7/6 each to include one bottle of wine may be had at the principle stores in town." *South Australian*

In March 1839, he sold the Adelaide Tavern and took up farming on his property 'Windsor Farm' near Darlington at Sturt Hills, which today is Eden Hills and Bellevue Heights.



Artist representation of the *Tam O'Shanter* by John Ford [South Australian Maritime Museum collection]

He died of tuberculosis at the age of 36. Shephard's Hill Road (now spelt Shepherd's Hill Road) is named after him.

**From information provided by David Jarman,
William's great great grandson
March 2015**





Front Door of Ada Villa

David

WEIR [1830-1913]

Married Elizabeth Ann MANUEL

On 14 July 1852 at Wesleyan Chapel, Pirie Street

Departed 6 June 1839 from London

Arrived 25 September 1839 at Port Adelaide on the

Prince Regent

Children of David & Elizabeth:

Helena [aka Ellie] (1853-1943) m Frederick ALLEN

David (1855-1937) m Julia HINCE

Emily (1857-1880)

William (1859-1894) m [1] Emily GALLEY

[2] Henrietta REINCKE

Florence (1861-1933) m Walter OTTAWAY

Albert [aka Bert] (1864-1923) m Maggie HARRISON

Ada (1866-1938) m Charles OTTAWAY

A Son (stillborn 1869)

Rose (1870-1947) m John WATSON

Ethel (1873-1945) m Edward TUCKER

Lydia (1874-1942) m John TROTMAN

Clarissa [aka Clarrie] (1876-1925) m George BESLEY

Bertha (1878-?) m Charlie ANGELL

Harrison (1880-1970) m Hilda MARTIN

A Faithful Employee and Churchgoer Memorialised

David Weir turned nine on his way to South Australia. In his reminiscences, he recalled being carried ashore by sailors and how one unpopular gentleman was 'accidently' dropped into the water. The journey from the Port to Adelaide took five hours in a bullock dray and a slice of bread and butter at Halfway House cost 1/-.

The Weir family were first accommodated at Emigration Square. His father worked as a baker in Port Adelaide and on high tide, boats would come up to his shop for supplies. David's mother died shortly after arrival, and his father soon remarried.

David had attended school in England, but only went for a few months in Adelaide before starting work at a grocer's shop. He attended night school and worked as a calculating clerk in the Assay Office before being employed by Archibald Jeffrey in his drapery business. This led to him being elected the Chairman of the Drapery Assistant's Association in October 1859.

After marrying in 1852, he and Elizabeth lived briefly in Koorunga (Burra). They later moved to Stepney and built their imposing home 'Ada Villa' in George Street, where it still stands today.

In 1861 David joined G&R Wills & Co's retail business and worked in the wholesale division as cashier for more than 50 years. In the 1870s he was President of the Warehousemen & Clerk's Assoc. In 1911 at a dinner for 250 employees at the Grand Central Hotel, David was presented with a gold medal for his service to the company.

David was a founding member of the College Park Congregational Church and a deacon and its treasurer until his death. The Weir Memorial Sisterhood was founded in his memory by the ladies of the church. Instead of erecting memorial tablets and windows at the church, the women visited the sick and afflicted in their homes and institutions such as the Children's Hospital and Home for the Incurables and used any money raised for their benefit.

From information provided by Elizabeth 'Libby' Ottaway
David's great great granddaughter-in-law
March 2015





Portrait of William Field held by the Art Gallery of SA
Painted in oil on ivory, attached to the rear is a lock of his hair and a medal.

A Navy Man and Pioneer of Pastoralism

Following in the steps of his father and several uncles, William George Field entered the Royal Navy in 1819 and rose to the rank of Lieutenant in 1826. While serving on *HMS Howe*, he was offered the position of first officer on the brig *Rapid* under the command of Colonel William Light on its trip to South Australia.

William was also Assistant Surveyor to Light, and when they arrived at Kangaroo Island, the search began for a suitable site for the capital and land for settlers to be moved away from Nepean Bay. He was also involved in the discovery of the Onkaparinga River and the reconnaissance of the Port River.

When supplies were in short supply, William was put in command of the *Rapid* and sailed to acquire them. With his brother Henry who had arrived on the *John Renwick*, he sailed to Sydney and returned with flour, horses, bullocks, wagons and barges. William realised that it would be cheaper to bring stock overland but before he could do anything about it, he was ordered to take the *Rapid* to England for more surveyors and equipment, along with a cargo of 150 gallons of whale oil - the first produce from the colony.

On his return, William overlanded stock from New South Wales and started mixed farming at Mt Barker. He became Justice of the Peace and Magistrate and was responsible for the Official Rural Returns for the area. From 1842, he held an Occupational Licence for two 80 acre sections at Hay Flat near Yankalilla, and in 1845 he purchased 40 acres, where he built a substantial home named 'Adderbury Cottage' after his childhood home in Oxfordshire - later owners renamed the house 'Hillside'.

William married Jane Davenport in 1847 but his health was deteriorating. They lived with his brother Henry and his family, and together they ran the property and supplied fresh meat to Encounter Bay. A well-respected man, William died from tuberculosis.



'Hillside' formerly Adderbury Cottage [SLSA B 27651]

**From information provided by Elizabeth 'Libby' Ottaway
William's great great great niece,
with assistance from Dr Jeff Nicholas
March 2015**

William FIELD [1807-1850]

Married Jane DAVENPORT
on 7 November 1847 at Yankalilla

Departed 1 May 1836 from London
Arrived 20 August 1836 at Nepean Bay,
Kangaroo Island on the

Rapid





State Library SA B3197

Reverend Ridgway NEWLAND [1790-1864]

Married

[1] Jane BENNING

&

[2] Martha KEELING

Departed in December 1838 from Liverpool

Arrived 7 June 1839 at Holdfast Bay on the

Sir Charles Forbes

Children of Ridgway & Jane:

Watts (1820-1913) m [1] Fanny TAYLOR

[2] Margaret EGAN

Simpson (c1822-1835)

Ridgway (1824-1849)

Sophia (1825-1829)

Children of Ridgway & Martha:

Martha (1827-1901) m Philip NATION

Sophia (1829-1872) m Henry FIELD

William (1831-1877) m Abigail (Abbie) LOWE

Catherine (1833-1874) m Alfred WEBB

Simpson (1835-1925) m Jane LAYTON

Sarah (1837-1922) m Frank MART

He Paved the Way at Encounter Bay

After training in the Christian ministry, Ridgway Newland took charge of the Congregational Church in Hanley, Staffordshire. After his first wife died, he then married Martha Keeling, a woman well educated in classical studies. After 22 years in Hanley, Ridgway was selected by the Colonial Missionary Society to take a party of 34 immigrants to South Australia. He purchased 560 acres of land, which entitled him to take 28 labourers who received free passage. On arrival, most of the party travelled by the *Lord Hobart* to Encounter Bay.

For the first two years the party lived in tents as they cleared the land and dug wells. Martha started a night school and Sunday school as well as educating her own children. A stone family home was built at Yilki Farm with a brick kitchen, malting bin, dairy and barn. Later Ridgway set up a steam-driven grist mill to produce his own flour.

In 1846 a church called the Tabernacle was built where Sunday services were held. Ridgway was also responsible for groups at Bald Hills, Port Elliot, Middleton, Goolwa, Currency Creek and Milang.

Involved in all aspects of life in the district, Ridgway was elected the inaugural Chairman of the District Council of Encounter Bay in 1853. He worked hard to improve schools, obtain roads and bridges and promote local industries. In 1862 to mark his 50 years in the ministry, a large celebration was held.

On 8 March 1864 Ridgway was returning from Adelaide on the mail cart when its shaft broke on steep Baldock's Hill and he was badly injured. He died before his family could get to him. The cortege at his funeral was over half a mile in length and businesses

in the district all closed for the day. His body was buried at the Tabernacle but later moved to Victor Harbor Cemetery



The Tabernacle.

From information provided by Elizabeth 'Libby' Ottaway,
great great great grand-daughter
March 2015

